

# JBSA LEGACY

WWW.JBSA.MIL

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

APRIL 29, 2022



COURTESY OF U.S. AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS

*The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds were the headlining aerial demonstration during The Great American Airshow at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph April 23-24. More than 500,000 people attended the two-day event.*

## Great Texas Airshow thrills more than half million attendees

Page 3-4



## Former Soldiers honor fallen Army medic

Page 6



## BMT expands graduation events, returns to parade grounds

Page 16

# Building healthy relationships takes time, effort

By Greg Chadwick

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND HEALTH & WELLNESS TEAM

Relationships impact all aspects of our lives, including home, work, and leisure activities.

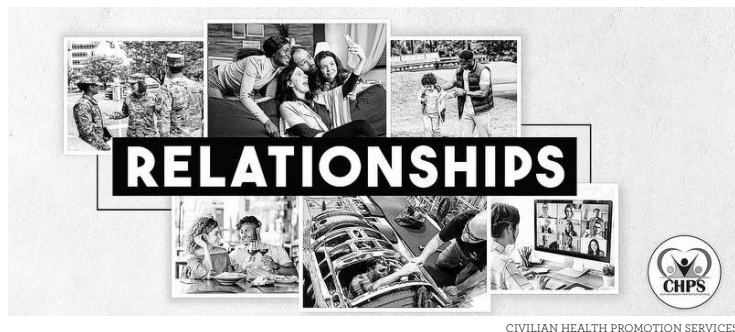
Friends and family are important for your health and overall well-being. They can help you celebrate good times and provide support during challenges. Many adults find it hard to develop new friendships or keep up existing ones. Relationships may take a back seat to other priorities, such as work or caring for children or aging parents. Or, maybe you've moved to a new community and haven't found a new way to meet people yet.

Developing and maintaining good relationships takes effort — they aren't static — they are living, dynamic aspects of our lives that require attention and care. The first and most important factor to building and maintaining healthy relationships is communication. Make time to connect with those that matter the most to you. Spend time together, let little grievances go, and express love and compassion to one another.

If you have grown disconnected from an old friend, think of a memory that makes you laugh, and text or email it to your friend. A quick message that brings nostalgia and connection about the good old days will let your friend know that you are thinking of them, even when you haven't been in touch in a while. Without strong relationships, it is possible to feel as if you are alone.

The National Institutes of Health offers the following tips on how to nurture your relationships:

- » Be kind. This most basic behavior remains the core of successful relationships. Expect others to treat you with respect and honesty.
- » Be a good listener. Ask what's going on in your family and friends' lives. Let the other person know that you are paying close attention through eye contact and body language. Listen to others without judgement or blame. Be caring and empathetic.
- » Disagree with others respectfully. Misunderstandings can happen, and that can lead to people being upset, hurt or confused. Conflicts should not turn into personal attacks.
- » Show that you can be trusted. Being responsible, reliable and dependable is key to forming strong relationships. Follow



through on commitments you've made to family and friends.

- » Protect yourself from violent and abusive people. Set boundaries with others. Decide what you are and aren't willing to do. It's okay to say no.

The workplace has its own uniqueness in how we build relationships and relate to each other. Building healthy workplace relationships is important for career success, and the key to a positive work environment.

Many full-time employees spend more of their waking hours with fellow staff than they do with their families or friends. Co-workers rely on each other to contribute support, expertise and other resources to fulfill the Air Force mission.

Benefits of establishing positive workplace relationships include enhanced teamwork, improved morale, increased productivity and higher employee retention rates.

To encourage positive workplace relationships:

- » Be friendly and approachable to co-workers.
- » Communicate effectively-without proper communication, things fall through the cracks, people work in silos, and it can feel like everyone is working for themselves instead of working as a cohesive unit.
- » Be accountable — deliver on your responsibilities and commitments. Team members will be more engaged if they feel you are pulling your own weight.
- » Clarify roles — knowing everyone's role and being familiar with the responsibility of those roles creates efficiency and flexibility. Review responsibilities when action planning.
- » Recognize contributions — sometimes a simple "thank you" can go a long way in building any relationship. A culture of appreciation from both the leader and the

team will make people want to put in discretionary effort since they know it is recognized.

- » Wait before you push send — be professional and don't let a careless email ruin a workplace relationship.
- » Respect others and treat them as you wish to be treated. Be courteous, use non-offensive language, and respect people's time.

Positive workplace relationships equal increased employee engagement. Engaged employees are more productive, take fewer sick days, and less likely to leave the organization.

It's never too late to reconnect with family, old friends, or develop new friendships. Investing time in strengthening your relationships can pay off in better health and a brighter outlook for years to come.

Relationships are not always easy. Sometimes they can be difficult and stressful. If you think you are in an unhealthy relationship and would like to talk with someone, support services are available for the Air Force military and civilian members and their families.

For work-life support resources, webinars and information as well as non-clinical, confidential counseling, check out the following:

- » Military and families: Military OneSource (800) 342-9647 or visit [militaryonesource.mil](http://militaryonesource.mil).
- » Civilian employees and families: Employee Assistance Program (866) 580-9078 or visit [AFPC.af.mil/EAP](http://AFPC.af.mil/EAP).

For more information on building healthy relationships education materials, visit [USAFwellness.com](http://USAFwellness.com) or contact your local Civilian Health Promotion Services team. Comprehensive information on how to build healthy relationships can be found at [nih.gov/wellnesstoolkits](http://nih.gov/wellnesstoolkits).

JBSA LEGACY

Joint Base San Antonio  
Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing  
and JBSA Commander  
BRIG. GEN.  
CAROLINE M. MILLER

502nd ABW/JBSA  
Public Affairs Director  
LT. COL. GINA "FLASH" McKEEN

Editor  
STEVE ELLIOTT

Staff  
LORI BULTMAN  
DAVID DEKUNDER  
JASON WILKINSON  
SENIOR AIRMAN  
TYLER MCQUISTON

JBSA LEGACY  
ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE  
EN COMMUNITIES  
P.O. BOX 2171  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78297  
210-250-2052

This Department of Defense newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the DoD. Contents of the JBSA Legacy are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the DoD, or the U.S. Air Force.

Published by EN Communities a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force under exclusive written contract with the 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office.

Everything advertised in this publication will be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.



# Great Texas Airshow thrills more than half million attendees

502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Great Texas Airshow was back for the first time since 2017 and definitely lived up to its name.

Approximately 550,000 eager attendees headed out to Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph April 22-24 to enjoy some of the most amazing aerial demonstrations the military has to offer, including diving airplanes and simulated bombing runs.

Dozens of amazing static displays included aircraft from across the history of flight, including the C-5M Super Galaxy, B-52 Stratofortress, A-10 Thunderbolt II, P-51 D Mustang, along with the U.S. Navy's P-8A Poseidon, the MV-22 Osprey from the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Army's HH-60 Black Hawk. There was even an M1 Abrams tank and a Bradley Fighting Vehicle!

Aerial displays began each day with the Commemorative Air Force's "Tora! Tora! Tora!" Pearl Harbor reenactment and were followed up with thrilling performances by U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, the F-35 Lightning II Demonstration Team, the U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey and many more in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force and the 80th anniversary of Air Education and Training Command.

It took a city to put on a logistical feat like this and thanks go out to all the volunteers, staff, friends, family, pilots, crew, maintainers, vendors, and sponsors for coming together and putting on the first airshow in five years.



SEAN WORRELL

*The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds air demonstration team headlined the aerial displays each day of The Great American Airshow*



BRIAN BOISVERT

*A number of U.S. Air Force members had the opportunity to be re-enlisted by a member of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.*



CESAR RODRIGUEZ

*U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Thomas Talafuse and his son watch an aerial demonstration during The Great Texas Airshow at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.*



*It's not only aircraft that use jet engines to feel the need for speed, as the Shockwave jet truck demonstrates.*

SEAN WORRELL



*Spectators enjoy a day at The Great Texas Airshow at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.*

CESAR RODRIGUEZ



SEAN WORRELL

*Vintage aircraft also got their time to shine in the air.*



SEAN WORRELL

*Aerial displays began each day with the Commemorative Air Force's "Tora! Tora! Tora!" Pearl Harbor reenactment.*



SEAN WORRELL

*The MV-22 Osprey from the U.S. Marines showed off its vertical take-off and landing capabilities.*



SEAN WORRELL

*Crowds gather to watch the F-35 Lightning II prepare to take off for an aerial demonstration.*



SEAN WORRELL

*Static displays that represented the U.S. Army included an HH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and a Bradley Fighting Vehicle.*



# Air Force fields new rifle to Airmen

By Brian Brackens

AIR FORCE LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's Small Arms Program Office is in the final phase of delivering the Squad Designated Marksmanship Rifle, or SDMR, to units across the Air Force.

The Air Force purchased approximately 1,464 SDMRs that will be distributed across the service based on approved allowances.

The SDMR is a semi-automatic, 7.62x51mm caliber rifle designed by Heckler & Koch for missions requiring combat over-watch with precision-fire capability to accurately engage targets up to 600 meters.

The SDMR was fielded to Air Force units this year. It is a multi-role asset, set to meet multiple missions taking place around the world.

It will replace legacy M24 Sniper Weapon Systems for security forces defenders performing base defense operations in garrison and in contingency support.

The SDMR is lighter weight in comparison to other 7.62 platforms and will also replace the M100 Semi-Automatic Sniper Systems rifle for pararescuemen and Guardian Angels, saving them 5 pounds in gear while out on missions.

Finally, the SDMR's precision-fire capability will be wielded by Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal



SHAUN FERGUSON

*The Squad Designated Marksmanship Rifle is prepared for testing on a range at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, April 13, 2022. Approximately 1,464 SDMRs will be distributed across the force based on approved allowances.*

technicians to eliminate small munitions in their standoff munition disruption activities.

"We're excited to field this incredible weapon system," said Matthew Hamer, Small Arms Program

Office lead. "Being able to field one solution that can effectively achieve multiple missions epitomizes Air Force acquisition strategies and shows Airmen's ability to adapt to any situation."

# FORT SAM HOUSTON

## Former Soldiers remember fallen Army medic

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Former Soldiers who served with Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Sebban, an Army medic who was killed in action in Iraq 15 years ago, paid their respects March 27 at the building which is named in his honor at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The 16 retired service members were given a tour of Sebban Hall, Medical Instructional Facility 5, by METC Commandant Capt. Thomas Herzig. Sebban Hall was dedicated in June 2011.

Sebban, 29, was assigned to the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment (Airborne Reconnaissance), 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He died in Baqubah, Iraq, on March 17, 2007, from wounds suffered when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, or VBIED, detonated near his unit.

Retired Army Maj. Brad Rather, who served with Sebban, said the group of former and retired service members who visited Sebban Hall were part of a unit reunion that was held in San Antonio during the weekend of March 26-27. He said the group presented six photos of Sebban to METC which have been placed in the building that bears his name.

The photos were mounted on the memorial wall on either side of Sebban's portrait behind a wreath, a plaque honoring Sebban, the Silver Star citation of Sebban's and other photos of him in the building. The wreath was placed several years ago by Rather and former Army medics who served with Sebban.

Rather, the Tactical Combat Medical Care Course contract program manager and instructor at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, was the battalion physician assistant during the time he and Sebban served together in Iraq, which was for nine months. The 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division was in the midst of a 15-month deployment when Sebban was killed.

"He was an awesome leader and just



COURTESY PHOTOS

*Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Sebban comes off a helicopter during Operation Turki Bow I, outside Turki, Iraq, in November 2006.*

an awesome person," Rather said. "He was all about teaching and mentoring young medics. He fit in really well."

Before being deployed to Iraq in July 2006, Rather said Sebban had been in the Army Special Forces assessment selection, but eventually wasn't selected for the Special Forces. But since he was an airborne qualified 68W (Combat Medic) he was transferred to the 82nd Airborne Division.

Rather said Sebban showed up with the unit weeks before they were to deploy and had only a short time to get familiar with the rest of the unit. But, Rather said, Sebban integrated with the unit quickly.

Sebban was killed in action when a dump truck containing an IED crashed into the wire surrounding the combat outpost he was stationed at. According to Rather, Sebban was in a gun truck inside the outpost when he saw the vehicle with the IED. He jumped out of the gun truck to warn someone about the IED and instructed them to get down, when the IED detonated.

As a result of the explosion, a piece of shrapnel went into Sebban's abdominal and groin area. Despite this, he got back



*Former service members who served with Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Sebban, an Army medic who was killed in action in Iraq in March 2007, visited Sebban Hall, which is named in his honor, at the Medical Education and Training Campus March 27.*

up and started treating casualties at the scene.

"That was his focus," Rather said. "He was focused on patient care and taking care of his brothers."

As a result of his injuries, Sebban collapsed while treating casualties. No one knew he had been injured and bleeding; he eventually bled to death.

Rather was at another patrol outpost several miles away when Sebban was killed. Earlier that same morning, Rather had seen Sebban during a link-up operation near the As Sadah patrol base. Sebban had just found out he had been promoted to sergeant first class.

"We were all excited about his promotion and then about eight hours later he died," Rather said.

Sebban was the only person at the outpost to be killed by the IED. If he would not have warned members of his unit like he selflessly did, other service members would have died, Rather said.

"He was a selfless person," Rather said. "He would literally give you the shirt off his back to take care of you, take care of his Soldiers. He just had a desire to help people."

Sebban was one of 22 service members in the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division, who was killed in the line of duty during the unit's 15-month deployment. He was one of two medics from the unit who lost their lives.

Rather thinks of his fallen warrior and brother every time he passes or goes to Sebban Hall and uses Sebban as an example to his students in his Tactical Combat Medical Care course about the importance of conducting good tactical field care, including hemorrhage control and doing thorough assessments of patients to find junctional bleeding in those areas which may get overlooked during initial interventions, such as the groin, head and neck.

"Those junctional wounds in the groin and neck, where you can't apply a tourniquet are the things that are still killing soldiers downrange. Unfortunately, Ben was one of those," Rather said. "So, I take that as a lesson from Ben's death and I tell it to every single class that comes through here."

Sebban is interred at Arlington National Cemetery.



# Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment members receive Air Force Commander's Public Service Award

By Olivia Mendoza Sencalar

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Fifty members of the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment were awarded the Department of Air Force Commander's Public Service Award April 18.

The detachment is an all-volunteer group of more than 100 U.S. military veterans who provide military honors to eligible veterans and service retirees at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

"These awards really show appreciation for our volunteers," said Manny Mendoza, Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment commander.

The recognition for the MSD members was based on their eligibility of five years of volunteer service as funeral honor guards, with two consecutive years of good standing with 200 hours or more of volunteer service and a recommendation from the MSD commander.

The MSD Honor Guard is composed of retired and former military service members who ensure that all veterans interred at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery receive proper burial honors, complete with military honor guard, rifle volleys and the playing of "Taps." The group performs Monday through Friday, and occasionally on Saturday for weekday holidays, rain or shine.

"This award recognizes those who have performed an exceptionally significant service for the men and women of our military," said Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander. "Their service, rendered through considerable personal sacrifice, is a great example of patriotism."

The MSD has participated in the funeral services for more than 40,000 veterans at no expense to their families.

"I feel truly honored having served 24 years of service active duty and I know what it takes to give to our country," said retired Senior Master Sgt. John D. Francis, who has been an MSD volunteer since July 2019. He wanted to give back and honor veterans and the detachment gave him an opportunity to be a part of



OLIVIA MENDOZA SENCALAR

(From left) David Aubrey, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Director; Steven McCray, Memorial Services Detachment vice commander; Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander; Loreto "Manny" Mendoza, Memorial Services Detachment commander; and Gene Kuwik, MSD member, were recognized and awarded the Department of Air Force Commander's Public Service Award at the 502nd ABW headquarters April 18.

something greater than himself.

"I'm extremely proud, along with our other members, to help support and honor our veterans," Francis said. "It never gets old. There is a sense of exhilaration and pride in honoring our fallen veterans. It gives us great joy to see the appreciation that the family members receive when we perform the honors for them."

For several years, the MSD has also provided military burial honors for veterans who have donated their bodies to the University of Texas Health Science Center Body Donation Program. Their honors are conducted at a private cemetery on the UT Health Science Center Campus grounds.

"We also provide the traditional three volleys of rifle fire and the sound of 'Taps' for the unaccompanied and homeless veterans as a final salute to those who have served our nation," Mendoza said. "Local veterans' organizations like the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars chapters, city officials, military

**"This award recognizes those who have performed an exceptionally significant service for the men and women of our military. Their service, rendered through considerable personal sacrifice, is a great example of patriotism."**

Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller,  
502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander

leaders and the Cole High School Junior ROTC also participate in the unaccompanied and homeless honors."

The detachment has also performed military honors for veterans identified in the Missing in America Project. The project's purpose is to locate, identify and inter, unclaimed remains of American veterans.

"It is truly comforting to know the MSD members share the same respect for all our veterans with the same honors," Miller said. "This just shows how much our military service members take pride in continuing to

provide care for one another."

As of Dec. 31, 2021, the MSD has rendered honors at 41,523 funerals and more than 1,900 veteran funerals at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

"Our MSD members are filled with gratitude, closeness and brotherhood each and every day they are on duty. We treat each burial service with the dignity and highest respect it deserves," Mendoza said. "We have laid to rest our beloved members of the 'Greatest Generation' and continue now into the newer generations with the same respect and admiration."

# Army South holds change of responsibility

By **SpC. Joshua Taeckens and Leanne Thomas**  
U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army South conducted a change of responsibility ceremony April 15 at McArthur Parade Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston as Command Sgt. Maj. Trevor C. Walker relinquished responsibility as U.S. Army South's Senior Enlisted Advisor to Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald J. Graves.

Maj. Gen. William L. Thigpen, U.S. Army South commanding general, presided over the ceremony where he spoke of Walker's many accomplishments and welcomed Graves and his family to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

"As we bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Walker and his family today, it is a bittersweet moment," Thigpen said. "We all know he is the glue that has bound our organization together during the past two years and instrumental in leading it to new heights. His dedication and leadership was critical in an increasingly important area of the world where strength of our partnerships is key to maintaining peace and stability and protecting the American way of life."

Walker arrived to U.S. Army South in June 2020 with an extensive amount of military expertise. He quickly adapted and found innovative ways to plan, coordinate and execute a series of multi-national senior enlisted engagements with critical partner



SPC. JOSHUA TAECKENS

*Maj. Gen. William L. Thigpen (left), U.S. Army South commanding general, passes the Army South colors to the incoming senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald J. Graves (right), at McArthur Parade Field at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, April 15.*

nation armies, immensely improving the capabilities of their noncommissioned officer corps.

"It is important to note that because of these initiatives, partner nation armies are developing stronger professional noncommissioned officer corps

and now significantly increasing their effectiveness," Thigpen said. "These advancements are just a few testaments to Command Sgt. Maj. Walker's passions for strengthening partnerships through noncommissioned officer corps development."

Thigpen welcomed Graves and his family.

"Now as we bid farewell to one great leader, the Army always gets it right and replaces that person with another outstanding leader. That is absolutely the case today as we welcome Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald J. Graves and his wife, Anna, to our team."

Graves, a native of Tipler, Wisconsin, joined the U.S. Army in 1995 and most recently served as the command sergeant major for the Army Test and Evaluation Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

"I look forward to continuing [Walker's] great initiatives and efforts to take care of the Army South Soldiers and families as well as building partner nation relationships and training alongside our Central and South American and our Caribbean partners," Graves said.

U.S. Army South is the Army Service Component Command of U.S. Southern Command and serves as SOUTHCOM's Joint Force Land Component Command responsible for conducting military operations and promoting security cooperation in Central and South America, and the Caribbean to achieve national objectives.



# MEDCoE CG recognizes 68W Combat Medic trainee on acceptance to West Point

By Jose Rodriguez

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence commanding general, recognized Advanced Individual Training Soldier Pfc. Samuel Olson on his acceptance to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point during a coin ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston March 30, 2022.

Olson, from Woodebury, Minnesota, is currently training to become a 68W Combat Medic and is assigned to Company F, 232nd Medical Battalion, 32nd Medical Brigade, and was ecstatic to learn of the good news, as was as his local leadership.

"Olson has proven to be an outstanding leader," said 1st Sgt. Roger M. Lariviere, Company F, 232nd Medical Battalion. "He is passionate about combat medicine and has done his best to learn medical skills that will be an asset in any unit. It was because of this desire and drive that he applied to attend West Point."

The road to West Point wasn't a straight or planned path.

After he graduated from high school in 2019, Olson attended college for two years and had planned on joining the Reserve Officer Training Corps and work toward becoming a U.S. Army officer. However, his priorities changed, and he felt he wanted to go in a different direction. Thus, he visited his local recruiter and joined the U.S. Army Reserves.

While in college, he was on a pre-medical track, as he had been interested in medicine while in high school. Therefore, it was a natural fit for him to train as a 68W Combat Medic.

Yet his goal was to serve as an Army officer, and he looked into the possibility of attending West Point. Olson began the process of applying to the military academy while still attending Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Normally it can take up to a year to complete an application, yet he was able to complete his application in six weeks.

He received encouragement from his family and friends and was nominated by his unit commander, Capt. William Anderson from the 477th Medical Company. Working hard, he finished his

**"Olson has proven to be an outstanding leader. He is passionate about combat medicine and has done his best to learn medical skills that will be an asset in any unit."**

1st Sgt. Roger M. Lariviere, Company F,  
232nd Medical Battalion

application package the day before he completed BCT in October 2021.

Reflecting on his experience in BCT and now at Advanced Individual Training, Olson feels his training to become a 68W Combat Medic will help him in the future. His plan is to study Chinese and later commission as an infantry officer.

"A good leader should be focused on his team," said Olson. "My goal is to serve in combat infantry and add my name to the list of others that have fought bravely before me."

While infantry is a change from combat medicine, Olson understands the vital importance of saving lives on the battlefield.

"I owe those warriors the best leadership they could possibly have because anything less may result in their deaths," Olson said.

It was because of this desire and drive that he applied to attend West Point.

When asked what advice he would give to someone applying to West Point, Olson said, "Make sure it is what you want. Be determined. It is a lot of work: writing essays, securing nominations, tracking down past teachers for recommendations. It has to be something you really want."

He is currently holding the Class 33-22 Student First Sergeant position and is set to graduate from AIT May 23, 2022. After finishing AIT, Olson will have a month to spend with his family before beginning the next phase of his Army career, starting Cadet Basic Training at West Point in late June.

To learn more about West Point and the application process, visit <https://www.westpoint.edu/>.



COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster (right), commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, presents Pfc. Samuel Olson, Company F, 232nd Medical Battalion, with a commander's coin upon his acceptance to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, during a coin ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston March 30.



JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Pfc. Samuel Olson (right), assigned to Company F, 232nd Medical Battalion, serving as Class 33-22 student first sergeant, leads his squad during morning exercises, before the start of 68W Combat Medic classes at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston March 29.

# A year later, BAMC doctor reunites with patient he helped save

By Lori Newman

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Last April, a Military Emergency Medical Services and Disaster Medicine fellow from Brooke Army Medical Center was on a routine ride-along with Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services when they responded to a 911 call about a 29-year-old female who went into cardiac arrest at a cross fit gym.

On April 5, exactly one year later, Army Capt. (Dr.) Jason Ausman was finally able to meet Tamra Harris, the woman he helped to save.

"When I was working out, I collapsed with a barbell over my head," Harris said. "It fell down onto my neck and I just kind of collapsed onto the ground. I actually don't have a memory of that. My memory cuts out about two hours before I fell to the ground."

Two bystanders began performing CPR until Austin-Travis County EMS arrived.

"We got there a couple minutes after the ambulance," Ausman said. "It was myself, the supervisor I was riding with, the paramedics and firefighters. She was still in cardiac arrest."

The paramedics on-scene continued CPR and ended up shocking Harris seven or eight times over a 25-minute period.

"We finally got her back," Ausman said. "It's amazing because most of the time after about 10 minutes, if you get somebody back, they are most likely going to be brain dead and not have a good outcome."

Harris also had blood coming out of her mouth because of the injury she sustained from the barbell falling on her. The paramedics were having a hard time getting an airway, so they decided a surgical airway was the best option.

Thankfully, Ausman was there to assist with the procedure.

"On an average week, 80% of what I do is working with paramedics, training them to run cardiac arrests and do procedures," he explained.

"We teach them how to do a surgical airway, but it's something that a paramedic might do once in their entire career," Ausman said. "We show up on



LORI NEWMAN

(From left) Joshua Todd, Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services district commander; Tamra Harris; and Army Capt. (Dr.) Jason Ausman, Brooke Army Medical Center Emergency Medical Services and Disaster Medicine fellow, gather for a photo April 5.

scenes regularly to help out and teach. We try to train (EMS personnel) to be an extension of the physician in the field, and to be able to do a lot of the same skills."

The EMS fellowship is a joint program between San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium and the University of Texas UT Health. This training enables physicians to perform all aspects of EMS medical direction, focusing on continuous quality improvement, and the education of paramedics and emergency medical technicians.

During the first year, the fellows function as assistant medical directors for the City of San Antonio Fire Department and assist other civilian EMS services. The second year of the fellowship focuses on a military-unique curriculum.

"Our program is unique because it's a two-year fellowship," Ausman said. "The civilian version is a one-year fellowship."

Harris is grateful for her second chance, "I'm so grateful that they were there," she said. "It's great and I get to do whatever I want in life and it's all because of them."

"I'm very proud that I was there at the right time and able to help," Ausman said. "Everything just worked out perfectly where we were able to help save her."

Ausman said the last two years have been tough, especially on health care workers.

"Being able to see the smile on her face and see her go about life is awesome," he said. "Most of the time we never see the outcome. This was a really nice reminder of why I chose to do this and that I do make a difference in some people's lives."





JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

# FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

## Monthly Events

May

### Aquatics

#### Pools open for the season

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center opens daily from noon to 8 p.m. for recreational swimming May 28. Lap swimming is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 5:15-8:30 a.m. and Tues., Thurs. from 6:30-8:30 a.m. For more information, call 210-221-4887.

The JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Pool is open daily May 28 at noon. Regular hours are Tuesday-Friday from 1-7 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday from noon to 8 p.m. and is close on Mondays for maintenance. For more information call 210-671-2016.

The JBSA-Randolph Center Pool is open for recreation swimming starting May 28 at noon. Regular hours are noon to 7 p.m. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The pool is closed Tuesdays for maintenance. The South Pool is open for lap swimming starting June 14 Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information call 210-652-1542.

### Bowling

#### Mother's Day is celebrated

Come to the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center May 8 from 1-6 p.m. Mom's can bowl with their family (up to six people per lane) at a reduced rate of \$10 per hour on Mothers' Day. For more information, please call 210-652-6271.

#### Families enjoy a day of bowling

Stop by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center May 27 for the AETC Family Day Bowling Special. A family of four can enjoy two hours of bowling, a large two-topping pizza and four fountain beverages for just \$60. Rental shoes are included. For more information call, 210-221-4740.

#### Bowlers save over the holiday weekend

Come out to the JBSA-Randolph Bowling Center May 28-29 to celebrate Memorial Day Weekend. The special bowling rate for the entire weekend is \$15 per hour and get a second hour for free. The Randolph Bowling Center is closed on Memorial Day. For more information, please call 210-652-6271.

#### Specials are offered all week long

The JBSA-Lackland Skylark Bowling Center is the place to be for fun all week long. Come by Tuesdays from opening to closing for the Three for \$5 Bowling Special. Bowl three games for only \$5.

Pins and Pints is hosted Thursdays from 2-5 p.m. Bowl for two hours for only \$30 per lane (limit 6 guests per lane). Rental shoes are included, and the bar will be open with a new special each week.

Lunch and Bowl is offered every Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spend \$10 or more at the Ten Pin Café and

get one game with rental shoes included for free.

Light up the night Saturdays from 5-8 p.m. with Cosmic Bowling. Bowl with the lights turned down, contemporary music and LED lane lighting throughout the center. In addition, the first Saturday of every month will feature DJ Tony playing all of your favorite hits. Guests can enjoy unlimited bowling for \$20 per person with rental shoes included.

Come out Sunday for a family day from open to close. A family of four can enjoy two hours of bowling, a large two-topping pizza and four fountain beverages for just \$60. Rental shoes included. For more information call 210-671-1234.

### Clubs

#### Bingo fun is at the club

Bingo takes place at the JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club every Sunday, 3 p.m. and Monday-Thursday, 6:30 p.m. in the ballroom. Admission is free for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Members have the chance to win full jackpots and nonmembers can try to win half jackpots. Don't forget to play every Tuesday and Wednesday to qualify for the monthly member prize give-away.

Bingo Extravaganza is held May 2 and 16, 6:30 p.m. Join us for a chance to win a larger jackpot. Birthday Bingo is held May 10. Club members with a birthday in May receive a complimentary bingo machine. Randolph Club members only along with ID and proof of membership required. For more information, call 210-652-3056.

Come on out to the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club May 22 at noon and try to win some great designer bags. The cost is \$20 for members or \$25 for nonmembers. A Pay As You Go Bar will be available along with some halftime snacks. To make a reservation, call 210-645-7034. No refunds after May 19. The cost for the event at the door is \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. There will be a club card drawing and the winners will select prizes from the prize table.

#### Patrons start the month with game night

The JBSA-Randolph Kendrick Club invites everyone to come out to First Friday Game Night on May 6 from 5-7 p.m. We will be playing Spades, Jenga, and Dominoes. This is a single elimination tournament. Winner of each game will win \$50. This event is free for members and \$2 for nonmembers. The monthly winners will go on to play in the final tournament in December for a chance to win \$500. Rules will be posted at the Kendrick Club. For more information call 210-652-3056.

#### Patrons unwind at the club

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club hosts Variety Night May 6, 13, and 20. Come out and relax as DJ Tony Style plays a wide variety of music in the Lone Star Lounge. Relax in the lounge or enjoy the weather out on

the patio with pool tables and big screen TVs. For more information, call 210-645-7034

#### Mother's Day is celebrated

Patrons celebrate Mom and let the JBSA-Randolph Parr Club do the cooking May 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Orders may be placed until May 3. All orders must be picked up on May 6 between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Orders can be made through our Catering Department by calling 210-658-7446 Tuesday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or email to jbsarandolphclubs@gmail.com. Meal options include a Sliced Brown Sugar Honey Glazed Ham Meal (serves 4-6 people) or Roast Beef in Au Jus. The cost of the Ham Meal is \$95 for members and \$100 for non-members. The Roast Beef meal costs \$110 for members and \$120 for non-members. For those wishing to forego the sides, customers can also purchase the ham only for \$55 for members and \$60 for non-members. Roast beef only for members is \$80 and \$85 for nonmembers. For more information, call 210-658-7445.

Head to the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club for a delicious Mother's Day breakfast May 8 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. The menu includes an omelet bar, pancake and waffle bar, glazed ham, fluffy scrambled eggs, crispy bacon, pork sausage, home fried potatoes, shrimp and grits, biscuits and country gravy, crepes with fresh strawberries, fresh fruit salad, Danish rolls, beverages, Mother's Day cakes. There will also be a special drawing for Mom. This event is reservation only, with limited seating. The cost is \$19.95 for members and \$21.95 for non-members. Children ages 5-11 cost \$9.95, non-members children, \$11.95. Children ages 4 and younger eat free. To make a reservation, call 210-645-7034 by May 4. Reservations will be paid for at the time of the booking. No refunds after May 5 and no coupons accepted for this event.

Join the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club May 14 from 5-8 p.m. in the Ballroom for delicious food, dancing, games and prizes. Music will be provided by OMG Sounds. Patrons may make reservations now through May 11. No refunds after May 12. For more information and to make reservations, call 210-645-7034. Payment required at time of reservation. The cost for a Mother/son member couple is \$25, and \$27 for a non-member couple. Additional guests costs \$12.50 for adult members, and \$14.50 for non-members. Additional children cost \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. The dinner includes traditional tossed salad, chicken piccata, fettuccini Alfredo, roast beef au jus, parsley red potatoes, broccoli spears, mixed vegetables, freshly baked yeast rolls, beverages, and an ice cream bar. For more information, call 210-645-7034.

#### Birthdays are celebrated

The JBSA-Randolph Parr Club celebrates all



# JBSA FSS

birthdays for the month on May 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come out for a complimentary lunch buffet. There is no cost for the birthday member. For those not celebrating the cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for nonmembers. Coupons are not accepted for this event. For more information please call 210-658-7445.

## Canyon Lake

### Families spend the night star gazing

Join the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake May 14 for a star gazing class on the lake, 9-10 p.m. See the solar system and beyond like never before through powerful telescopes. One telescope will be set up for individual use, while the other projects to an outdoor movie screen. This is open to all DOD ID cardholders. The price for this class is \$10 for children 12 and younger and \$20 for age 13 and older. To reserve a spot, please call 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

### Patrons learn a new skill

Enjoy the cooler weather at JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake while learning a new skill at the Dutch Oven Cooking Class. Come out May 21, 1-2 p.m. and learn to make some scrumptious treats for family and friends. The cost for this class is \$20 per person and all supplies are included. To reserve your spot, please call 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

### Fun on the water is had all summer long

Rent a boat at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake 10 times for a minimum of four hours May-September and get the 11th rental free. The price includes all required safety equipment such as life vests but does not include fuel. The rentals are on a reservation only basis. Email jbsamarinasuper@gmail.com for reservations. Patrons must have taken the boater's safety course through the State of Texas to be able to rent a boat. For more information please call 830-964-3576.

### Boat tour offered at Canyon Lake

The JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake encourages everyone to come out for the Beyond the Marina Boat Tour May 14 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Enjoy an hour and a half chauffeured boat tour around Canyon Lake. Encounter breath taking scenic views, discover the lake's history and the town that still resides beneath. This is open to all DOD ID cardholders. The cost for the tour is \$30 per adult and \$15 per child 12 and younger. Register by contacting our call center at 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

### Patrons learn how to be safe on the water

Please join us May 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the JBSA Recreation Park @ Canyon Lake at the Hancock Cove Beach for a two-hour class on everything there is to know about boat operation, rules of the water and safety guidelines. The cost for the class is \$40 per person and there are limited spots. Participants for the boating class must be 21 years or older and have completed the Boater Safety course one of the following locations, boaterexam.com, Boat-ed.com, BoatUS.org, or iLearnToBoat.com. To

reserve a spot or for more information, call 830-964-3576 or email jbsalodgingres@gmail.com.

## Community Services

### Patrons keep their cars road ready

Let the JBSA-Lackland Auto Hobby Shop technicians prepare your vehicle for any vacations planned during the hottest season of the year. The full service department provides tune-ups, charging system tests, oil changes, undercarriage, suspension and drive-line inspections, A/C systems performance test, repairs, Texas state inspections and more. The self-service side gives the do-it-yourself crowd a place to work on a vehicle and access to many tools that may not be in a home garage. Moreover, since COVID-19 is still around, the Auto Hobby Shop is still offering a complete vehicle disinfection service for only \$35. To make an appointment, call 210-671-3549. Operating hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m., to 6 p.m. Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed Sunday and Monday.

JBSA-RANDOLPH BOWLING CENTER

# MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 8 • 1-6 P.M. Special

Mom's come out and bring your family for a special rate of \$9 per hour per lane for up to 6 people.

For more information, please call 210-652-6271

Logos for JBSA, ACE, Facebook, and Texas FSS MWR are at the bottom.

### Precious memories are framed for a lifetime

Both the JBSA-Lackland and the JBSA-Randolph Frame Shops offer discounted framing services for all framing needs. Their expert framer will help customer design a one of a kind custom frame to display those precious memories or special achievements. In addition, they will match any off-base price on a comparable custom framing job. For questions about framing, please call 210-671-5503 for JBSA-Lackland or 210-652-5142, option 3 for JBSA-Randolph.

## Equestrian Center

### Youth are enrolled in a summer camp

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center encourages all youth ages 7-17 to register for their Summer Camp. The cost for the summer camp is \$350 per week, with a \$50 non-refundable deposit. Registration starts in May. Classes run Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Camp dates are June 6 and 20, July 11 and 25. To register or for more information please call 210-224-7207.

JBSA-LACKLAND GATEWAY CLUB

# VARIETY NIGHT

LONE STAR LOUNGE

DJ Tony Style playing all your favorite music from 5-10 p.m.

MAY 6 | 13 | 20

JUNE 3 | 10 | 24

Relax in the lounge or enjoy the outdoor patio with pool tables and big screen TVs.

For more information, please call (210) 645-7034.

Logos for JBSA, ACE, Facebook, and Texas FSS MWR are at the bottom.

### Customers go on trail rides every weekend

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center encourages everyone age 7 and older to come out for a trail ride. No experience is required and rides are by appointment only every Saturday and Sunday, 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Trail rides are \$30 per rider. All riders must arrive 30 minutes prior to their appointment time. Adults must accompany children under the age of 13. Riders must be at least 4 feet, 6 inches tall and weigh no more than 200 pounds. Weekday trail rides, group rides and team-building rides are available by appointment for \$40 per person. To make reservations, call 210-224-7207.

For the smaller riders that aren't quite ready for trail rides the equestrian center also offers parent-led pony rides for \$10 for children age 6 and younger. Pony rides are offered every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adults must accompany their children and availability is on a first come, first served basis. Pony rides can also be coordinated for weekdays on an appointment basis as well as for parties or other special events held on site. A covered deck is available for small parties for half-day use for \$50. For more information, call 210-224-7207.



## JBSA FSS

**Riders of all experience levels attend lessons**

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center offers horseback riding lessons for beginners and advanced riders in both English and Western style riding. Therapeutic riding lessons are also available and taught by certified instructors. Horses, saddles and tack for lessons will be provided if needed. Patrons must be at least seven years old. The price is \$60 per hour for a private lesson, \$50 for semi-private and \$40 for group lessons. Lessons are available by appointment only most days of the week and in the evenings. Helmets are also available if needed for the lessons. For more information, call 210-224-7207.

**Fitness****Athletes push their limits**

The JBSA-Randolph Rambler Fitness Center offers everyone a chance to push their limits with two 25 minute long challenges. Come by May 2-6 during normal operating hours for a 25 Minute Endurance Row. Participants test their endurance to see how far they can row in 25 minutes. May 16-20, during normal operating hours come take on the 25 Minute Stair-Step Challenge. Participants will see how many stairs they can climb in 25 minutes. For more information, call 210-652-7263.

Come to the JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Fitness Center May 4, 11, 18 and 25 from noon to 1 p.m. to take part in Beast Mode. Beast Mode is a high-intensity interval training program with intermittent exercises. The class alternates different real-life functional movements using strength for short periods of intense anaerobic, with less intense recovery periods. For more information, call 210-671-2016.

The JBSA-Lackland Chapman Fitness Center challenges everyone to come out May 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the BeaverFit Mayham HITT Challenge for May Fitness Month. Medals will be awarded to the top three male and female competitors. Event is open to all DOD ID cardholders age 18 and older. For more information, call 210-671-4477.

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Jimmy Brought Fitness Center challenges everyone to come out for a Bench Press Competition May 21 from 10 a.m. to noon and out-lift the competition. Each participant has three attempts, and all rules will be given at the event. Sign ups are accepted the day of the event. This event is open to all DOD ID cardholders. For more information, please call 210-221-1234.

**Competitors show off their skills**

Members compete May 5-26 at the JBSA-Lackland Chaparral Fitness Center during the Cinco De Mayo Racquetball Ladder Challenge. Winner will be announced on May 26 and a prize will be awarded. Event is free and open to all DOD ID cardholders for more information, call 210-671-2401.

No pre-registration is required to participate in the JBSA-Lackland Kelly Fitness Center's Three-Point Shootout. Held May 19, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The participant that makes the most shots from five different locations wins. This event is free and open to all DOD ID cardholder age 18 and older. For more information, call 210-925-4848.

The JBSA-Lackland Warhawk Fitness Center is hosting

a Basketball Skills Challenge May 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Competitors will go through a series of five different obstacles that will test their ball handling skills, passing, shooting ability and agility. The person with the fastest time and the least mistakes wins. Sign up deadline is May 22. This event is free and open to all DOD ID cardholder age 18 and older. For more information, call 210-671-2401.

The JBSA-Lackland Gillum Fitness Center hosts a Team Triathlon May 20. Each team must have six participants that need to complete three obstacles. This is a free event open to all DOD ID card holders. For more information, please contact the Gillum Fitness Center at 210-977-2353.

Gather a team and come out to the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston METC Fitness Center May 28 at 11:30 a.m. for the Memorial Day Kickball Classic. Prizes will be awarded to the first and second place winners. For more information, call 210-808-4709.

JBSA - FORT SAM HOUSTON

# TASTE OF JBSA

BEER • WINE • FOOD

**MAY 20 6-9:30 P.M.**  
**Parking lot at the corner of Worth & Stanley Rd.**

PRE REGISTRATION  
**\$15/PERSON**  
 ON SITE REGISTRATION  
**\$20/PERSON**

**CRAFT BEER WINE  
 FOOD TRUCKS MUSIC  
 BACKYARD GAMES**

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
 ☎ (210) 652-5763  
 📧 JBASO2TSS  
 🌐 JBASOTODAY.COM




NO FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT OF SPONSORS INTENDED.

**Runners take on a 5K**

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Fitness Center is calling all runners to come and represent their branch of service in the Armed Forces 5K. Held May 14 at 8 a.m., at Pershing Field near Bldg. 3212. For more information please call 210-808-5709.

**Golf****Golfers compete in a scramble**

Swing by the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course May 6 and June 3 for the warrior Golf Scramble at 12:30 p.m. The cost for this golf scramble is \$30 for DOD ID cardholders and Fort Sam Houston Golf Club members and \$40 for nonmembers. Price includes greens fee, golf cart and lunch for players. Entries limited to first 60 paid

players. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

The JBSA-Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course hosts the Gateway Hills Blind Draw Scramble May 7, 8 a.m. This is a four-person scramble. Teams will be drawn by the Tournament Coordinator. Entry fee is \$20 per person before COB on May 4. Entry fee includes greens fee and cart fee. Event is open to all JBSA Annual Pass Holders. To register, call 210-671-3466 or register on the JBSA Golf Club App.

**Mother's Day is celebrated**

Join the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course May 8, 2-5 p.m. for our Mother's Day Celebration. There will be assorted menu options for patrons to choose from. The cost for a reservation is \$20 per person which will go towards the final bill. Spots are limited so please call early to secure a reservation. To make a reservation, call 210-222-9386.

**Golfers celebrate national golf day**

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf course invites everyone to celebrate National Golf Day, May 13 at 12:30 p.m. with a two-player scramble tournament. The entry fee is \$20 plus greens and cart fees. Entry fee includes food and prizes. Sign up through the JBSA Golf Clubs App for your home course. Golfers will be sent their start times and all the necessary information. The deadline to register is May 11. For more information, call 210-222-9386.

**Memorial Day is celebrated**

Join the JBSA-Randolph Oaks Golf Course on Memorial Day, May 30 for a two-person scramble starting at 8 a.m. The cost is \$20 to enter plus cart and greens fees. Net and Gross will be paid to teams that place. The team handicap is the lower of the 2 handicaps. Sign up through the JBSA Golf Clubs App. Golfers will be sent their start times and all the necessary information. For those without the JBSA Golf Clubs App, stop by the Pro Shop or call 210-652-4653 to sign up.

**Information, Tickets and Tours****Patrons stay updated on travel deals**

Tune into "Monthly Travel Talk" May 10, 11:30 a.m. via Facebook Live on the Joint Base San Antonio Information Tickets and Travel Facebook Page, facebook.com/JBSAINFOTICKETSANDTRAVEL. Get updates for attractions, pricing, travel deals, ask questions and talk about everything travel related. For more information please call the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston office at 210-808-1378, JBSA-Lackland at 210-671-3059, or JBSA-Randolph at 830-266-9333.

**Military & Family Readiness****Mandatory financial training for First Duty Officers**

Second and first lieutenants, and captains assigned to their first permanent duty station attend a mandatory financial training to review all aspects of finances to include pay, entitlements, Thrift Savings Plan, and more, May 10, 10 a.m. to noon, at the JBSA-Randolph Military & Family Readiness Center. To register, call 210-652-5321.

**Savvy planning helps prepare for retirement**

Participants learn about changes to Social Security benefits and how it may affect retirement during the Social



Security and You workshop, May 12, from 10 a.m. to noon. To register, call 210-671-3722.

### Registration ongoing for Military Spouse Conference

In honor of Military Spouse Appreciation, embOLDen – A Military Spouse Conference, May 13-14, features multiple tracks, a panel discussion, and key note speaker tailored to embolden, engage and encourage. Register at <https://e.afit.edu/jk0ddY3> by May 2. For details, call 210-221-2705.

### Seminar helps patrons become foster parents

Military & Family Readiness partners with the Texas Dept. of Family and Protective Services to host an Adoption and Foster Care Seminar, May 18, 9 a.m. to noon with the JBSA-Lackland Military & Family Readiness Center. To register, call 210-671-3722.

### Transition assistance now offered for spouses

TAP Too, a workshop specifically designed to help military spouses prepare for the transition from military to civilian life due to the retirement or separation of service by their service member is slated for May 31, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn about popular topics impacting our transitioning population, psychological aspects of transition, changes in financial obligations, and more. To register, call 210-221-205.

## Outdoor Recreation

### Concealed carry classes offered

The Camp Bullis Rod-N-Gun Recreation Center (RNGRC), bldg. 6215, is providing Concealed Handgun License (CHL) classes May 7 and 21 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students must be 21 years old to register for the class, unless they are active-duty military age 18 or older. Students need to be familiar with their firearm; no first time shooters. Students must also meet Federal qualifications to purchase a handgun. The cost of the class is \$80. Successful completion of this class is required to apply for a Texas LTC license. To register, go to <http://www.chlregistration.com> and select "Register for Class" and then select "Dan Willis - Leatherneck Arms." For more information, call Mr. Dan Willis at 210-363-2332 or the RNGRC at 210-295-7577 or 210-296-7529.

### Archery takes on another dimension

The 3-D Archery Range at Camp Bullis consists of a course with 30 life-like animal targets such as bears, black panthers, deer, alligators, etc. The targets are set up between 5 & 55 yards at unknown distances. Traditional (Long Bows and Recurve Bows) and Compound Bows are allowed but no Crossbows. The RNGRC has Recurve Bows available to rent for \$15 each.

Come out May 28 and 29 for the 3-D Archery Competition. Registration for the Competition is between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. The cost is \$10 for E-1 through E-4, active duty or medically retired, and \$20 for participants 13 years of age and older. The Fun Shoot Registration is between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. The cost is \$5 for E1 through E4, active duty or medically retired, \$15 for 13 years of age and older and \$5 for youth 12 and younger. For more information, call 210-295-7577 or 210-295-7529.

### Patrons rent all the recreation essentials

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Outdoor Equipment Center has equipment rentals for everyone, to include camping, water fun, fishing boats, speedboats, sports and party equipment, tables, chairs and bouncy castles. There are also rental RV campers, mobile grills and portable grills. In addition, equipment rental has a resale car lot. For more information, call 210-221-5224 or 210-221-5225.

JBSA-Lackland Outdoor Recreation offers a full list of party items for summer fun to include tables, chairs, cotton candy machines, margarita machines, party speakers, champagne fountains and many more items. For more information, please call 210-925-5532.

The JBSA-Randolph Equipment Checkout has tables, chairs, canopies, ice chests, and water jugs that might be needed for those birthday parties, holiday dinners or backyard BBQ. Patrons can also rent roll-a-way beds with mattress, aluminum cots, and sleeping bags for great prices. For more information, visit the Community Service Mall, bldg. 895, or call 210-652-5640.

### Boaters learn the rules of the water

All JBSA-Outdoor Recreation locations require a Boaters Safety Course certificate from Texas Parks and Wildlife in order for customers to rent our motorized watercraft over 15HP.

Approved Texas Boaters Safety Courses can be taken online at: <http://www.boaterexam.com>, <http://www.boat-ed.com> or <https://www.boat-us.org/onlinecourse/Texas.asp>. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-5224 or 210-221-5225. JBSA-Lackland at 210-925-5532 or 210-925-5533 and JBSA-Randolph can be reached at 210-652-5142.

## Youth Programs

### Basketball is play all summer long

JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs encourages youth of all ages to take part in the Summer Basketball League. The cost for this program is \$60 and runs May 2-31. The age groups will be 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-14. A current sports physicals and shot records w/ current flu shot are required at time of registration. Sports physicals must be valid through the duration of the basketball program in order to participate. To register and for more details, call 210-671-2388.

### Youth attend a dance

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Programs is hosting a pre-teen dance for youth ages 9-12 years old May 6 from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$10 and includes food, fun, games, prizes and dancing. Participants must be an active Youth Programs member. Membership is free. This event requires registration no later than May 4. For more information and to sign up, call 210-221-3502.

### Youth party all night long

Youth ages 9-12 are invited to join the JBSA-Lackland Youth Programs for a night of games, food and fun at the #Futurestrong Lock In. The lock in is held May 13-14 from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. and the cost is only \$10 per youth. This event requires registration

and a copy of current immunizations. For more information or to register, call 210-671-2388.

### Mother/Daughter Tea

Youth and adults, 5 years and older are invited by the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs to enjoy a cup of tea and learn about the English tradition May 14, noon to 2 p.m. Samples of English hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Space is limited. The cost is \$15 per parent/child couple and \$5 per additional child. For more information or to make reservations, please call Youth Programs at 210-652-3298.

### Youth spend the morning getting active

All JBSA Youth Programs encourage youth and their families to get active May 21 from 8-11 a.m. with America's Kids Run. The America's Kids Run is a free family run for children and adults. The first 50 participants registered will receive a free America's Kids Run T-Shirt. Children ages 5-6 run a half mile, ages 7-8 run a full mile, ages 9-13 run two miles and parents can run the 5K or run along with their children. To register, visit [www.americaskidsrun.org](http://www.americaskidsrun.org) to register online. Select the "registration" button and then Sam Houston, Lackland or Randolph on the drop down menu. The runs will take place at W. Ed Parker Youth Center (YPI) at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Youth Center at JBSA-Lackland, and at Heritage Park on JBSA-Randolph. For more information, call JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 210-221-5224 or 210-221-5225. JBSA-Lackland at 210-925-5532 or 210-925-5533 and JBSA-Randolph can be reached at 210-652-5142.

### Youth skate the night away

Youth, ages 9 and older, are invited to the JBSA-Randolph Youth Programs monthly skate night May 20, 7-9 p.m. There will be music, games and fun. Concessions will be available for purchase. The cost is \$5 for members and \$7 for nonmembers. To sign up, call Youth Programs at 210-652-3298.

Like us on



## STAY CONNECTED

Stay current on Joint Base San Antonio 502d Force Support Squadron events, specials and daily activities.

<https://jbsatoday.com>





# LACKLAND

## BMT expands graduation events, returns to parade grounds

### 37th Training Wing Public Affairs

Beginning June 8-9, Basic Military Training graduation events will expand to two days and include the return of the traditional military parade at the Gateway Wing parade grounds.

Following the recent announcement that proof of COVID-19 vaccination was no longer required to enter BMT ceremonies, today's news release reflects the improved current health protection conditions within the local San Antonio area that have contributed to making changes.

The 433rd Training Squadron will be the first to execute the two-day graduation events on Wednesday, June 8, and Thursday, June 9. (The Airmen who graduate on those dates began their BMT on Tuesday, April 19.)

The following conditions will apply beginning with the June 8-9 BMT graduation events:

- ▶ Any individual with installation access may attend the graduation events.
- ▶ Guests who do not already have access to the installation must be invited by their trainee and vetted to receive an installation pass.
- ▶ Trainees can invite six guests who require installation access.
- ▶ Those under the age of 18 may accompany parents/guardians and are not required to have a separate installation access pass.

Day One of the graduation events will start with the Airman's Run, followed by the Airman's Coining Ceremony and culminate with on- or off-installation liberty. Day Two will be the BMT Graduation Parade followed by on- or off-installation liberty. Graduates will continue to ship to their respective technical training locations on Fridays.

"Thanks to the tremendous support of our Joint Base San Antonio mission partners, we have been able to gradually open up our graduations to an increased number of visitors, as well as return to the parade grounds," said Col. Rockie Wilson, 37th Training Wing commander. "We have fought hard for the past two years to keep our trainees, our staff and our community safe, and to ensure the basic training mission never missed a beat. The return of two-day graduations is an exciting moment for these graduates and their families."

As a reminder, installation access is determined by the installation commander and Security Forces vetting procedures. Those guests invited by their trainees through the formal invitation process will be pre-vetted and will receive their installation pass in advance of graduation activities.

Security Forces will not process or issue additional or



Airmen march at their graduation ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, April 14.

ANNETTE CRAWFORD

same-day visitor passes for graduation ceremony attendance. Personnel with authorized Department of Defense credentials allowing escort privileges may escort up to five non-DOD credentialed personnel in the same vehicle without a pass being issued. Escorts are required to remain with, and maintain control of, their visitors at all times while on the installation.

BMT graduations opened up to a limited number of visitors in July 2021, the Airman's Run returned in November 2021, and proof of COVID-19 vaccination was no longer required as of this month. The current graduation schedule is as follows.

### WEDNESDAY

- 6:00 AM
- Pfingston Reception Center Opens
- 7:30 AM
- Airman's Run
- 8:00 AM
- Events Briefing
- 8:45 AM
- New Spouse Orientation
- 9:00 AM
- Events Briefing (same as 8:00 AM)
- 10:00 AM
- Airman's Coin Ceremony

- 10:30 AM
- On/Off Base Liberty (TBD)
- 8:00 PM
- Airman are due back to Training Squadron

### THURSDAY

- 6:00 AM
- Pfingston Reception Center Opens
- 7:30 AM
- Buses for handicapped visitors begin to depart from Pfingston Reception Center to Parade Grounds (last departure at 0830)
- 9:00 AM
- Graduation Parade
- 9:30 AM
- On/Off Base Liberty (TBD)
- 6:00 PM
- Airman are due back to Training Squadron

All events take place at the Pfingston Reception Center and the JBSA-Lackland Parade Grounds. Visitors should follow the USAF BMT Facebook page and [www.basicttraining.af.mil](http://www.basicttraining.af.mil) for the latest official ceremony and entrance requirements. For more information, email [37TRW.PA.INBOX@us.af.mil](mailto:37TRW.PA.INBOX@us.af.mil).

# South Texas Reserve units participate in 2022 Flambeau Parade

By Staff Sgt. Monet Villacorte

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Reserve Citizen Airmen with the 433rd Airlift Wing, 960th Cyberspace Wing, 340th Flying Training Group and 23rd Intelligence Squadron participated in San Antonio's 74th annual Fiesta Flambeau parade, the largest illuminated night parade in the United States according to the official Flambeau organization website, on April 9.

One of three parades and multiple Fiesta events, the Fiesta Flambeau parade began in 1948. With the word Flambeau meaning "tall, decorated candlestick," in French, participants used their floats and outfits to illuminate the night during the celebration.

This year's parade theme was "Celebrating Literary Classics." The consolidated group represented the Air Force Reserve by creating a float spotlighting retired Senior Master Sgt. James Bynum, a local Tuskegee Airman who served during World War II.

"We decided to highlight the Tuskegee Airmen," said Lt. Col. Timothy Wade, 433rd AW public affairs officer. "They're a great part of our history. We are showcasing not only what they've done in the past, but how their groundbreaking of the Air Force and Department of Defense led to units such as the 433rd Airlift Wing, 960th Cyberspace Wing and the 23rd Intelligence Squadron."

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Bynum was not able to attend the parade. However, the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland's Airman Heritage Foundation loaned an authentic WWII uniform to a parade participant to maintain the spirit and accuracy of the time period as well as Bynum's legacy.

"In honor of him, we decided to keep pressing forward," Wade said. "That is why I am dressed as an authentic Tuskegee Airman by using historical belongings from our Air Force museum. We want to make sure we get it right and tell that story to everyone."

After a two year pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Reserve unit members came together for the first time to not only create the float but to show camaraderie post-lockdown by walking in the parade together.

"This is the first year that 340th Flying Training Group, the 960th Cyberspace Wing and the 433rd Airlift Wing all participated together," said Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Howard, 340th FTG senior enlisted leader. "When we talk about COVID-19, we not only brought everyone back together but we brought wings together under this particular event."

According to the Fiesta San Antonio Commission, 750,000 spectators attended the parade. As they cheered and waved while the float rode by, Howard spoke of his excitement and enjoyment of being a part of the San Antonio community, especially during this annual event.

"I haven't been part of a community like San Antonio before that really embraces the military," Howard said. "The feeling of walking down that parade route with all of the community coming out and their outpouring of support is amazing."



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. SAMANTHA MATHISON

*Reserve Citizen Airmen in the 433rd Airlift Wing, 960th Cyberspace Wing, 340th Flying Training Group and 23rd Intelligence Squadron sing along with the crowd during the Flambeau parade in downtown San Antonio April 9.*



*Lt. Col. Timothy Wade (right), 433rd Airlift Wing chief of public affairs, and Master Sgt. Kristian Carter (left), 433rd AW public affairs superintendent, look towards the crowd while riding on a float for the Fiesta Flambeau parade in downtown San Antonio April 9.*



# 502nd LRS holds strategic leadership off-site

By Brian Valencia

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron held a strategic leadership off-site in San Antonio for their senior leaders April 12-13. Several guest speakers and team-building exercises focused on developing values, high-performance teams and understanding different personalities in the work place.

"This is a huge deal," said Maj. Robbie Walsh, 502nd LRS commander. "We've taken two days to understand the very essence of what the squadron is — it is truly the people."

The first speaker of the day, Matt Delacruz, founder and CEO of The Winning Minds Group and a John Maxwell Leadership Coach, emphasized knowing and connecting with your people.

"If we as leaders have the title but don't have a connection to our people, will they want to follow you," Delacruz asked. "You must work on the human connection — the best way to view yourself as a leader is how well your people follow."

Retired Col. Kevin Adelsen, leadership team assessment facilitator with the Profession of Arms Center of Excellence, Air Education and Training Command program analyst, and former KC-135 navigator, used an image of a KC-135 Stratotanker refueling an F-15 Eagle to stress the importance of connection and trust.

"If we don't connect and trust each other, how does the mission get done?" Adelsen inquired. "If you don't have trust, you're not going to get off the ground."

Adelsen referenced a recent memo from the Air Force senior leadership which happened to arrive the day prior to the training. The memo, addressed to command teams and supervisors, starts off, "Connecting with our fellow Airmen is a mission imperative and has to be a top priority."

"Building trust and belonging is never a one-time event, it's a daily commitment to those we serve," Adelsen continued from the memo.

Brian Hoffman, 502nd Air Base Wing vice director, closed out day one talking about improving oneself and improving one's organization.

"As key leaders in LRS, you get to shape the organization and lead in



PHOTOS BY BRIAN VALENCIA

Retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Robert Gaylor (center front) takes a group photo with 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron senior leaders during a strategic leadership off-site in San Antonio April 12.

ways you don't even realize," Hoffman said. "Measuring things like how many days I've gone without a safety incident or an aircraft mishap, that's easy. It's the tougher things like how your employees feel and how well you are instilling the culture that are important to measure."

The second day's focus centered on understanding the mission and vision of the 502nd LRS and having highly effective teams.

"It's very important for people to know their purpose and to know they are valued," said Jose Surita, 37th Training Wing executive director. "Everyone must know where they stand, to know where they are going."

After a short group exercise discussing characteristics of a highly effective team, the group was asked which was most important. Coming back to the lessons of day one, the crowd echoed "trust."

"If you don't have trust in an organization, you're always second guessing, not following."



Brian Hoffman, 502nd Air Base Wing vice director, talks with senior leaders during a strategic leadership off-sit.

The off-site culminated with retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Robert Gaylor discussing his four T's, starting with training, technology, tribe

(family), with his last being trust.

"When I entered the Air Force there was no trust," Gaylor said. "If you want a trained, motivated airman, you have to provide for their total lifestyle, today we trust."

He told a story of how he was asked by a neighbor why he always did his own yard work. Gaylor's response: my name is on the mailbox. He encouraged everyone to feel a part of the organization and take pride in their part.

"Accountability, responsibility, ownership, I can ask you right now, is your name on the unit mailbox," Gaylor added. "When you go to work do you feel you're an investor, an owner, a key employee or do you just work there?"

Walsh hopes the 502nd LRS leadership came away with a stronger team from the off-site.

"We want to show everyone in the squadron exactly how important they are to what we do here at JBSA," Walsh said. "We want to really raise the trust with the work force."

## SPECIAL WARFARE TRAINING WING HOLDS MEMORIAL REDEDICATION CEREMONY

*U.S. Air Force Col. Mason Dula (right), Special Warfare Training Wing commander, and U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Todd Popovic (left), SWTW command chief, set down the Lt. Col. William Schroeder Memorial Log following a 2½ mile ruck march during a rededication ceremony in honor of U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. William Schroeder and U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Scott Sather at the SWTW training compound Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex April 8. The wing and echelon units hosted the ruck march followed by memorial pushups and the unveiling of refitted memorials in coordination with Gold Star families.*



BRIAN BOISVERT

## 10TH AIR FORCE COMMANDER, COMMAND CHIEF VISIT 960TH CYBERSPACE WING



KRISTIAN CARTER

*Maj. Rhenso Hernandez (center), 854th Combat Operations Squadron division chief, briefs Maj. Gen. Bryan P. Radliff (left), 10th Air Force commander, about the wing's mission April 2 at Joint Base San Antonio-Chapman Training Annex. Radliff visited several units within the 960th Cyberspace Wing during the visit.*





VANESSA R. ADAME

*Master Sgt. Ricardo Alonso of the Inter-American Air Forces Academy points to a photo on the wall during IAAFA's 79th Anniversary and Heritage Wall ribbon-cutting at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland March 25. The Heritage Wall depicts the academy throughout the years from its origin at Albrook Field, Panama Canal Zone, in 1943 to current day at JBSA-Lackland.*

# IAAFA celebrates 79 years, unveils heritage wall

By Vanessa R. Adame

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Inter-American Air Forces Academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland recently celebrated its 79th anniversary with dozens of cadre, staff, and international military students. The celebration coincided with the official unveiling of a heritage wall at the headquarters' building to commemorate its history.

The occasion also highlighted IAAFA's evolution from a small education and training operation to become one of the U.S. Air Force's main components to achieve strategic cooperation initiatives.

Col. Edward "Tre" Irick, 37th Training Wing vice commander, joined IAAFA's commandant Col. José Jiménez Jr., senior enlisted leader Chief Master Sgt. Emilio Avila, and international deputy commandant Col. Carlos Carrasco in the ribbon cutting of the photo

**"The Heritage Wall highlights key moments within our academy, spanning nearly eight decades as a security cooperation institution."**

Col. José Jiménez Jr. commandant

wall. Important historical events are displayed along both walls on the main hallway at IAAFA's headquarters' building.

"The Heritage Wall highlights key moments within our academy, spanning nearly eight decades as a security cooperation institution," Jiménez said. He added that "when combined, IAAFA's history,

reputation in the Western Hemisphere, and its culture of agility and innovation make it one of the U.S. Air Force's key Security Cooperation nodes."

The large photos depicted on the wall — some in black and white and others bright in color — show the academy's heritage starting from its origin in 1943 at Albrook Air Field in the Panama Canal Zone, to the current location at JBSA-Lackland.

One of the latest photos, taken just months before the wall was designed, features more than two dozen female students from both the U.S. and partner nations surrounding Lt. Gen. Mary O'Brien, an Air Force Women's Initiatives Team Champion.

As the academy has evolved over the last 79 years, one of its main focuses has been professional development of enlisted forces, and Women, Peace, and Security objectives. Nearly 80 years later, its history continues to be written, serving as an example to partner nations across the Western Hemisphere.

# RANDOLPH

## Operation Homefront recognizes 2022 Air Force Military Child of the Year

By Jet Fabara

340TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Each April, the Department of Defense celebrates the Month of the Military Child to recognize the children of all service members and veterans. Along with that celebration, Operation Homefront hosts an annual awards gala recognizing eight outstanding young people ages 13 to 18 from each branch of the military based on their scholarship, volunteerism, leadership, extracurricular involvement, and resiliency.

At this year's April 7 gala in Washington, D.C., Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. presented Anna Cummins, 16, with the Air Force Military Child of the Year award. Anna is the daughter of Amy and Lt. Col. Matthew Cummins, 70th Flying Training Squadron flight commander.

"We are extremely proud of everything Anna has done to help her family, classmates, and community," Cummins said. "She started volunteering in the local community at age four when we were assigned to the 5th Flying Training Squadron at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, which is under the 340th Flying Training Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph. Ever since then, Anna has found a calling in helping others."

According to Anna's parents, she spends a typical 12-hour day going to school and then volunteering or competing in after-school sports, five days every week. She also often spends her weekends and summers volunteering at hospitals, while still enjoying her hobbies, reading and hiking.

When discussing the challenges of being a military child, she mentioned that her career goals of becoming a physician assistant and joining the Air Force to help military families stemmed from a lifetime of attending medical appointments with her older sister, Maddy, who is 18 and lives with Rett syndrome. With her sister requiring 24/7 care and being unable to walk or speak,



Anna Cummins (center), 16, poses with her parents, Amy and Lt. Col. Matthew Cummins, 70th Flying Training Squadron flight commander, after Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. presented her with the Air Force Military Child of the Year award at the Operation Homefront annual awards gala in Washington, D.C., on April 7.

Anna has observed how military families cope with numerous challenges and sought ways to assist.

"A military child may have to be more responsible and dependable so that your

parents can count on you, especially during a deployment. Military hours are not like regular work hours, I've learned to be flexible with my dad's schedule due to his work demands. When the work

**"We are extremely proud of everything Anna has done to help her family, classmates, and community. She started volunteering in the local community at age four and since then, Anna has found a calling in helping others."**

**Lt. Col. Matthew Cummins, 70th Flying Training Squadron flight commander**

day ends for most, military parents are still on duty, so I've learned I sometimes have to share his time and be patient," Anna said. "Military dependents are especially good at living in the present and being resilient. We have no control over what comes down the chain of command, one day we might be going to lunch with our service member, and the next day they might get a phone call they have to go. We know the risks and hazards of their jobs, even if they're stateside. We appreciate the time we spend with our loved ones."

In addition to this, Anna holds aspirations of becoming a pilot, which is why she's attained a leadership role in the Civil Air Patrol and founded the Aviation and Aerospace Club at her school.

"My favorite part of being a military child is all the amazing people that I get to meet and learn from. I've had the opportunity to talk to groundbreakers such as Maj. Christy Wise, who the first female amputee to return to flying duty. I've also spoken with the Thunderbirds and their flight doctor," added Anna. "In 2019, I attended a Yellow Ribbon Conference for post-deployment families, there I connected with other military children and learned new tactics to deal with stress and anxiety in the day to day life of a military child."

During the gala, Anna also received \$10,000, a laptop computer, and other donated gifts.

JET FABARA



# Legion of Valor chapter members hold luncheon, recognize achievements

By 2nd Lt. Gaby Goco

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, spoke to a group of Medal of Honor and Service Cross recipients during the Legion of Valor of San Antonio Chapter's luncheon at the Parr Club at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph April 12.

Founded in 1890, the Legion of Valor is the nation's oldest Veteran Service Organization, chartered by Congress, to recognize achievements of extraordinary heroism in combat.

"The term hero gets tossed around often, but this is truly a room full of heroes," Webb said. "You may not hear it every day, but if you've ever wondered if the Air Force still talks about, and treasures, the legacy of its veterans, the answer is yes. To the former service members, spouses, sons and daughters that are attached to this organization, we are forever indebted to you."

After two years of no in-person meetings because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the chapter's president, retired U.S. Navy Master Chief Don Mason, and Webb took the opportunity to recognize one of the organization's honorary members, retired U.S. Air Force Col. Dale Eppinger.

Eppinger was awarded the Air Force Cross in 1969 for his extraordinary heroism in military operations as a UH-1P helicopter pilot from the 20th Special Operations Squadron during the Vietnam War.

"I still have the picture of when my father received the Air Force Cross—it's been a big part of his military career and our family history, and it means a lot to my father to be associated with these gentlemen," said Eppinger's son, Bruce Eppinger. "It's amazing to witness the bond that these recipients have with one another."

Included in the attendees were:

- » Retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Paul Hester
- » Retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, (Medal of Honor)
- » Retired U.S. Navy Vice Admiral



TECH. SGT. KEITH JAME

Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Dale Eppinger (center), San Antonio Legion of Valor Chapter honorary member, and his family, along with Lt. Gen. Brad Webb (left), commander of Air Education and Training Command, stand for a photo during the San Antonio Legion of Valor Chapter luncheon at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, April 12. Eppinger was awarded the Legion of Valor certificate recognizing and honoring him as a member of the Legion of Valor. Founded in 1890, the Legion of Valor is the nation's oldest Veteran Service Organization, chartered by Congress, to recognize achievements of extraordinary heroism in combat.

David Robinson, (Navy Cross)

- » Retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. James R. McCarthy, (Air Force Cross)
- » Retired U.S. Army Col. George Burrow, (Distinguished Service Cross)
- » Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Dale Eppinger, (Air Force Cross)
- » Retired U.S. Army Col. Keyes Hudson, (Distinguished Service Cross)
- » Retired U.S. Navy Master Chief Donald Mason, (Navy Cross)
- » Chief Master Sergeant Robert Gutierrez, (Air Force Cross)
- » Janice Brazil, daughter of posthumous Medal of Honor recipient U.S. Army Master Sgt. Charles Hosking

"It means the world to the members of the Legion of Valor to be united once

again, and to have Lt. Gen. Webb join us in embracing the true meaning and importance of our organization," said Mason, president of the local Legion of Valor chapter and Navy Cross recipient.

With only 350 active members across the United States, the organization's goal is to share their stories from combat and attract new members, who would also share their perspectives, so that today's and future generations and historians can learn more about the service members behind the deeds captured in their short citations.

For more information on the Legion of Valor, visit <https://legionofvalor.org/>.



COURTESY PHOTO

Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Dale Eppinger (seated), San Antonio Legion of Valor chapter honorary member, and his family, photographed the day he was awarded the Air Force Service Cross in 1969.